

## Idaho outpaces the nation in job growth, but lags in average weekly wage growth.

Chart 1 shows Idaho's *Nonfarm* employment grew 2.1 percent between June 2003 and June 2004 while the Boise MSA grew 3.9 percent, ahead of a national rate of 1.2 percent.

Chart 2 shows *Manufacturing* for the nation was down 0.8 percent while Idaho was down 1.9 percent. However, the Boise MSA grew 5.0 percent over the year. The reason for the statewide reduction in *Manufacturing* jobs is largely due to the downturn in the forest products and the food processing industries in Idaho, which are mostly located outside of the Boise MSA.

As Chart 2 also shows, Idaho's *Service-Providing Industries* and *Construction Industry* outpaced the nation in job growth. Idaho's *Service-Providing Industries* grew 2.2 percent over the year and the Boise MSA grew 3.5 percent, while the nation only grew 1.3 percent. Within the *Service-Providing Industries*, *Education and Health Services*, along with *Professional and Business Services* were the driving forces for Idaho and the Boise MSA. In *Construction*, Idaho grew 7.1 percent over the year and the Boise MSA grew 7.2 percent, while the nation only grew 2.9 percent.

Although Idaho outpaced the nation in job growth, both statewide and in the Boise MSA, it lagged in average wage increases.

Chart 1

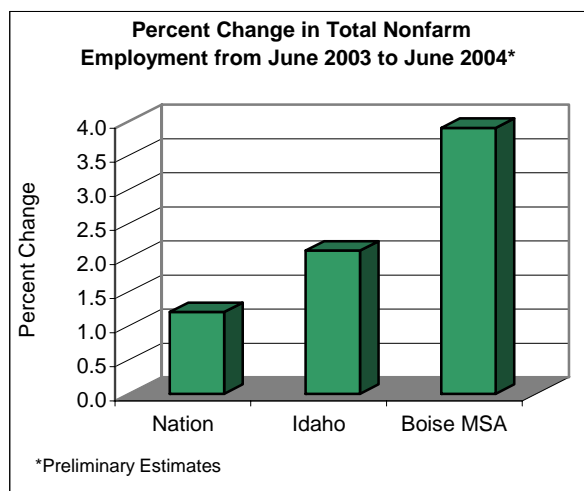
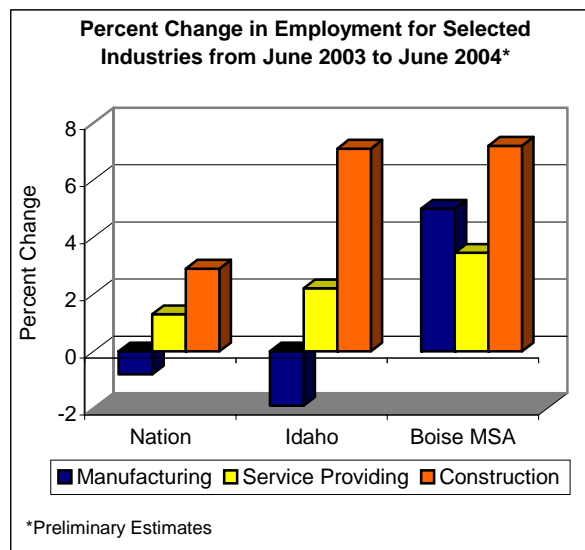
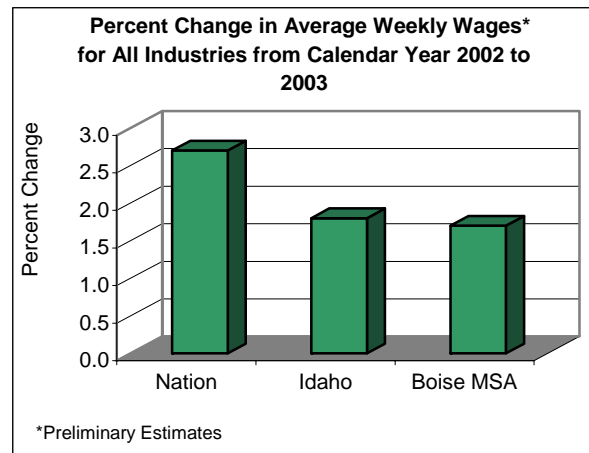


Chart 2



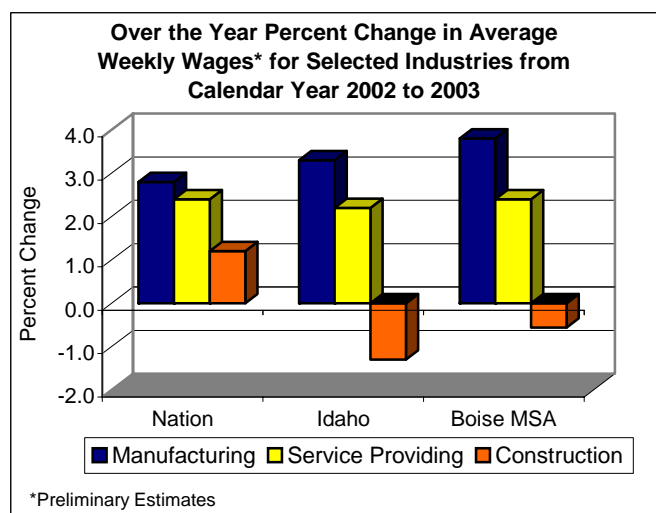
As Chart 3 shows, Idaho and the Boise MSA lagged behind the nation in average weekly wage gains for all industries for calendar year 2003. Idaho's average weekly wages increased 1.8 percent and the Boise MSA increased 1.7 percent, while the Nation increased 2.7 percent.

**Chart 3**



As Charts 4 shows, the wage increases the state and the MSA have seen were driven by *Manufacturing*. The average weekly wages for *Manufacturing* in Idaho rose 3.3 percent and the Boise MSA rose 3.8 percent, above the national average of 2.8 percent. Idaho outpacing the nation in wage growth for *Manufacturing* is largely attributed to the high tech computer industries, the bulk of which are in the Boise MSA. Chart 4 also shows that average weekly wages in the *Service-Providing Industries* in Idaho and the Boise MSA rose 2.2 percent and 2.4 percent respectively, keeping pace with the national average wage growth of 2.4 percent. However, Chart 4 also shows that Construction workers in Idaho and the Boise MSA did not realize wage increases in 2003, as did their counterparts throughout the nation. The average weekly wages for Construction workers in Idaho and the Boise MSA decreased 1.3 percent and 0.6 percent respectively, while the average weekly wages for the nation increased 1.2 percent.

**Chart 4**



Idaho's statewide job growth in the *Service-Providing Industries* and *Construction*, coupled with the strong growth in *Manufacturing* in the Boise MSA, have helped Idaho slightly outpace the nation in job growth. However, Idaho's average weekly wage increase from 2002 to 2003 have lagged behind the nation due to minimal average weekly wage increases in the *Service-Providing Industries* and average weekly wage decreases in *Construction*.